



Orange County Fire Rescue Department

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Fire Communications Division

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Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Orange County Fire Rescue Department would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

Orange County Fire Rescue provides life saving emergency care to the residents of the unincorporated Orlando metropolitan area. More than a million persons rely on our agency for emergency medical, fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation, and technical rescue support. More than 1,000 firefighters and emergency personnel rely on our 800 MHz radio system for support and coordination.

Orange County Fire Rescue relies on this radio network to provide us with instant access to other emergency responders and our dispatchers. Unfortunately, our agency experiences problems each day with our public safety radio system. Many of our problems are linked back to interference from outside systems, including radio signal blocking from wireless carriers.

We urge the Commission to adopt the recommendations and plans contained in the "Consensus Plan". We believe this plan will help eliminate most interference on public safety systems, will address the root cause of the interference problem, provides for a funding mechanism, and finally provides for additional 800 MHz spectrum for public safety coordination.

Respectfully submitted,

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Carl L. Plaughner, Fire Chief
